



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: September 7, 2004, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: September 5, 2004
CWP WA-CW3604

Winter Wheat Fall Seeding Underway Apple Harvest Continued at Steady Pace

Field Crops

Producers were trying to harvest remaining acres of winter and spring wheat as well as peas, lentils and barley. There were some reports of sprout damage in winter and spring wheat in Spokane and Walla Walla Counties. Spokane County also reported discoloration and sprout damage to peas, lentils, and barley. Winter wheat fall seeding was underway in many counties in Eastern Washington. Adams County reported that some early seeded winter wheat had already emerged. Christmas tree growers finished shearing Douglas firs and started preparing harvest roads.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 3% very poor, 11% poor, 33% fair, and 53% good. Dairies in Thurston County took advantage of the drier days and pumped manure onto forage fields. Oyster growers in Pacific County finished cord grass control efforts and prepared for increasing fall harvests.

Fruits and Vegetables

Cranberry growers finished final bog and irrigation system preparation for harvest and readied machinery and crews. In Chelan County, Bartlett pear harvest finished with yields lower than originally expected. Early apple varieties continued to be harvested throughout the state. In Skagit County, producers were hustling as many apple varieties were ripening at the same time. Raspberry growers in Pacific County continued post harvest pruning and weed control. Hops, mint, sweet corn, late stone fruit, and grapes continued to be harvested.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.4
Last Week	4.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	2	23	64	11
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	24	47	29	0
Subsoil	3	33	64	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	15	48	37	0
Irrigation Water	0	10	90	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	5	92	0
Hay & Roughage	0	3	90	7

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2003	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	98	89	99	94
Winter Wheat Planted	21	3	31	23
Winter Wheat Harvested	98	91	100	98
Barley Harvested	97	87	100	93
Potatoes Harvested	45	43	47	36
Corn Silage Harvested	13	12	12	18
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	35	20	39	20
Dry Peas Harvested	98	95	100	93
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	98	88	93	93

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Potatoes	0	2	13	81	4
Corn	0	0	5	92	3
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	13	84	3

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Early morning fog creeping across valley floors validated the transition of the summer growing season into the fall harvest season. Cooler temperatures and isolated showers the past several weeks resulted in a "greening" of the rural landscape. Pastures and hayfields once again were rapidly growing. Asian pear growers harvested early ripening varieties in order to minimize damage to fruit from yellow jacket feeding. Christmas tree growers were finishing shearing on Douglas Fir and beginning to prepare harvest roads. Greenhouse tomato growers reported excellent fruit quality and strong demand for product. Spring flowering bulb growers prepared fields for planting later this month. Cereal grain producers were cutting and raking straw for baling. Home gardeners continued to feast on a smorgasbord of fresh vegetables.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: With periodic showers and fog, it appeared that the season had changed from summer to fall. Finishing touches to small grain harvest had been delayed by the rains and fog. Corn harvest (silage and sweet) was almost into full swing, two weeks or more ahead of schedule.

Kitsap: Cooler weather helped extended vegetable production. Crop selection at local farmers markets was excellent!

Pacific: Cooler fall conditions provided opportunities for growers to prepare for late season harvests and wintertime operations. Cranberry growers finished final bog and irrigation system preparation for harvest, and readied machinery and crews. Yields this season were expected to be above average with good color and fruit size. Raspberry growers continued post harvest pruning and weed control. Oyster growers finished cord grass control efforts, and prepared for increasing fall harvests

Pierce/South King: The weather remained good for crops in the South Puget Sound area. No unusual situations reported. No report of crop damage due to a weather event

San Juan: Record rainfall and cooler temperatures were welcomed relief for pasture ground. Irrigation was not necessary. Tree fruit was ripening.

Skagit: Soil moisture levels were subsiding, as most days were dry. Apple harvest was at a peak. Apple growers were hustling as they were finding most varieties ripening at the same time, a result of the summer drought and warm weather. Harvest continued on potatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, cucumbers, sweet corn, and beet seed.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: Weather was mild. Skagit County producers reported some crop losses due to recent rains.

Snohomish/North King: The Summer season was slowly turning to Autumn with cooler temperatures and patchy fog in the mornings. Gardens, orchards, and fields were abundant with fresh vegetables and fruits. Some of the soft fruits were damaged by the recent heavy rain, but no reports were filed. Corn silage harvest started and is expected to continue for a couple of weeks..

Snohomish/King: Heavy rain experienced in some parts of the County mid-week. Late summer rains caused cracking and disease on some plums. Sweet corn harvest continued, along with other vegetables. Pastures were recovering from drought with lots of new growth.

Thurston: Cooler temperatures, morning fog, isolated rain showers and a brisk wind throughout much of the week had left little question that summer has begun its transition to fall across the rural landscape. Pastures resumed rapid growth due to ample soil moisture. Although turfgrass growers were not saddled with irrigation demands, they were now spending all available time trying to keep up with mowing requirements on rapidly growing fields. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Douglas Fir and doing inventory on fields scheduled for harvest. Truck gardeners reported brisk sales of sweet corn, string beans, cucumbers and summer squash at the Olympia Farmer's market. Dairy producers took advantage of the drier days to pump manure lagoons onto forage fields. Home gardeners continued to battle yellow jackets who insisted on competing for ripened fruit.

Whatcom: The area received a couple of rain showers. Temperatures were in the high 60's to low 70's with cool evenings. Bean harvest continued. Corn silage harvest was starting slowly.

Central

Benton: Apple, hops, mint, summer vegetables, late stone fruit and grapes were being harvested. Cooler weather helped color development.

Chelan: Harvest continued at full rate. Gala apple harvest was nearing completion, golden delicious harvest was beginning. Yields were good. Bartlett pear harvest finished, yields were lower than expected (lower than news reports, which are based on old, pre-harvest estimates.) D'Anjou pear harvest was starting. Production is expected to be significantly down compared to recent years. All harvest dates are about seven days ahead of normal.

Chelan/Douglas: Pear harvest continued. The crop was smaller than normal, but quality was good. Early variety apples were being harvested. Crop looked good also. Winter wheat seeding was in progress. Some producers were required to replant due to last weeks rains. An additional weeding operation had to be completed on some fields also due to the rains. Grazing in fall pastures was improved due

to recent precipitation.

Grant: Alfalfa hay fourth cutting was under way and 20 percent complete. Alfalfa seed harvest was 90 percent complete and resumed after the rains. Yields were very good with five to fifteen percent of the crop rain damaged. Sweet corn harvest continued. Gala and Golden Delicious apples were being picked.

Kittitas: Second cutting of timothy hay and third cutting of alfalfa hay were winding down. Most hay was rained on. Sweet corn harvest continued with average yields being obtained. Apple harvest was beginning. Range and pasture conditions were in fair condition..

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from four degrees below normal to two degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat seeding was in full swing. Early seeded winter wheat was emerged and about 50 percent of the total winter wheat crop will be emerged by the end of the week.

Asotin/Garfield: Many of the producers who were still harvesting prior to the rains finished this past week as weather returned to dry and sunny. There were still a handful of people that have not finished harvesting. There has not been sprout damage in our area as some had feared.

Lincoln: Harvest was complete and winter wheat seeding has started throughout the county.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Harvest began Monday but was shut down by Wednesday due to small rain showers. Producers were trying to get the remaining acres of winter and spring wheat cut as well as peas, lentils and barley. After a week of delayed harvest a large amount of unharvested grain was harvested. Quality damage to all crops remaining was reported. Reports were received of sprout damage in winter wheat, spring wheat, peas and lentils as well as discoloration. Barley was also reported to be discolored. Amount of dockage is yet to be determined. Another good week of weather and most of the acreage should be cleaned up.

Stevens: Grain producers that were not finished harvesting before the rains came were worried about sprout problems. Some fields were harvested during the week after things dried out. The weekend featured warm fall-like weather with rain Sunday night.

Walla Walla: Cooler temperatures and shorter days were making it difficult for those still harvesting to finish up. Reports of some sprout damage in wheat due to rain and cooler conditions, although the majority of the wheat crop in the area had been harvested. Fall work was well in progress with those in Northern portion of County seeding.

Whitman: Harvest was winding down with the majority of the 2004 crop in the bin. Cool fall-like mornings signaled a change in the seasons. Producers will soon turn their attention to seeding the 2005 winter wheat crop. Soil moisture conditions appeared to be good with all of the recent rains.

Whitman (2nd Report): Weather moderated this past week allowing farmers to finish harvest. Palouse Empire Fair will start after Labor Day. Farmers were making preparations for seeding.

National weather website: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>

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Weekly Weather Statistics September 7, 2004

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	53	74	61	2	79	7	11	-3	0.42	0.06	3	0.42	0.16	162	3
Everett	52	75	62	1	85	9	17	0	0.39	-0.03	2	0.39	0.09	130	2
Hoquiam	50	70	61	-2	76	-2	9	-12	0.09	-0.46	2	0.09	-0.32	22	2
Kelso	46	84	65	2	104	14	35	7	0.15	-0.32	2	0.15	-0.20	43	2
Olympia	44	82	62	2	89	14	20	3	0.14	-0.28	2	0.14	-0.16	47	2
Sea-Tac	53	76	63	-1	91	-3	21	-8	0.19	-0.17	1	0.19	-0.07	73	1
Shelton	49	81	63	1	95	4	25	-4	0.05	-0.41	1	0.05	-0.29	15	1
Tacoma	52	79	64	3	99	12	29	6	0.22	-0.18	2	0.22	-0.08	73	2
Vancouver	50	87	66	4	116	27	46	19	0.04	-0.37	3	0.04	-0.26	13	3
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	51	94	67	4	120	27	50	15	0.02	-0.10	1	0.02	-0.07	22	1
Stampede Pass	44	79	57	5	49	16	18	11	1.29	0.64	4	1.29	0.82	274	4
Wenatchee	47	91	68	-1	125	-3	57	-4	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.10	0	0
Yakima AP	45	93	66	2	111	6	41	-3	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.10	0	0
NORTHEAST															
Colville	41	88	63	3	95	13	35	5	0.00	-0.28	0	0.00	-0.20	0	0
Deer Park	35	86	60	-4	70	-26	22	-16	0.04	-0.17	1	0.04	-0.11	27	1
Spokane AP	42	88	64	0	96	-2	37	-2	0.01	-0.20	1	0.01	-0.14	7	1
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	50	91	68	-2	130	-6	60	-8	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.05	0	0
Moses Lake	47	93	68	-3	124	-12	54	-14	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.05	0	0
Quincy	46	89	68	2	129	15	60	10	0.00	-0.13	0	0.00	-0.10	0	0
Ritzville	42	92	65	1	104	2	39	-2	0.00	-0.10	0	0.00	-0.07	0	0
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	51	96	70	-3	145	-16	75	-15	0.00	-0.13	0	0.00	-0.09	0	0
Pasco	47	96	69	1	136	3	66	0	0.00	-0.13	0	0.00	-0.10	0	0
Pullman	38	90	62	0	83	-3	29	-3	0.00	-0.21	0	0.00	-0.15	0	0
Whitman Miss.	46	96	67	2	123	13	53	7	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.10	0	0
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	43	84	63	-3	89	-17	31	-14	0.08	-0.20	2	0.08	-0.12	40	2
Lewiston ID	49	94	70	2	139	6	71	3	0.01	-0.20	1	0.01	-0.14	7	1

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2003

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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